



State of Arizona

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ARIZONA SHOWS SUPPORT FOR CRIME VICTIMS

Governor Brewer Addresses Crime Victims, Families at Crime Victims' Rights Week Event

PHOENIX – Arizona Governor Jan Brewer joined crime victims, law enforcement representatives, prosecutors, judges and others at a kickoff event to mark the beginning of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 26 - May 2. This event, along with public rallies, candlelight vigils, and other activities will be held across the nation, honoring victims, their families, and those who serve them.

"National Crime Victims' Rights Week provides an opportunity to pay tribute to crime victims and those who dedicate their lives to offer support, counseling and guidance through the criminal justice system," said Governor Brewer. "Until all victims report the crimes committed against them, know and exercise their rights, and receive the support they need, there is more to be done."

This year's theme, "25 Years of Rebuilding Lives: Celebrating the Victims of Crime Act," honors the landmark passage by Congress of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) in 1984. VOCA established the Crime Victims Fund, a non-taxpayer funding source, which continues to provide critical support to state victim compensation and community victim assistance programs throughout the United States.

During the kickoff event, Governor Brewer presented the Triumph Over Tragedy Award in honor of Sharon Sikora, a national activist and speaker on drunk driving issues and the survivor of a near fatal traffic accident caused by a drunk driver. Sikora is a past national vice president of MADD and a co-founder of MADD-Arizona. She is also a co-founder of the Ashes to Life support group and the Arizona Children's Burn Camp.

In addition, Governor Brewer, along with Department of Corrections Director Charles Ryan, presented a check to three organizations that work with victims of elder abuse. The money was donated by inmates during various fundraisers throughout the year as part of the ADC Restorative Justice Program, which helps hold offenders accountable and responsible to crime victims.

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